IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims, as follows:

Please cancel claims 1-24, without prejudice.

1-24   (Cancelled).

25.   (New) A method for reconstructing a supply chain network, the method comprising the steps of:

determining, on a node-by-node basis, connections existing between nodes in the network by the steps of:

monitoring perturbations in an output of a node in the network;

computing a similarity measure between the output of the node and an output of one or more other nodes in the network; and

placing one or more putative connections based on the similarity measure, wherein each of the connections comprises an order corresponding to a minimum number of individual connections needed to traverse from the node to the one or more other nodes, wherein the order is used to reduce false correlations, wherein the false correlations comprise false positive or false negative correlations and wherein said order is used to reduce false correlations by distinguishing first order connections from all other order connections.